

Valley Park School District

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TO: Charles N. Davis, PH.D DATE: 2/14/2012

FAX : 573-884-5400

Number of pages including cover:

7

FROM: Kathleen Neal, Assistant to the Superintendent

RE: Your request for all records and correspondence pertaining to the challenge and or removal of material in school libraries and/or classrooms from Jan. 1, 2008 to present.

The Valley Park School District has had just 1 "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" during that time. I am attaching a copy of the request, the board policy, the checklist form that is used by the library, and an explanation of the conclusion.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

Title What My Girlfriend Doesn't KnowAuthor Sonya Sones Format bookRequest initiated by Allyson Werner Phone number (36) 226-4849Address 157 Crescent Rd. Valley Park, MD 63088Complainant represents himself/herself? ☒ Organization? ☐ Other group? ☐

1. Please state your objection to this material in as specific a manner as possible. Please be specific. Cite pages.

attached - I have attached pages from the book along with Missouri Statutes that define pornography and the consequences of distributing it to minors.

2. Did you read or view the material in its entirety? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If not, what parts did you read or view. Please be specific.

Read in its entirety

3. What do you think is the purpose, theme, or message of the material? *- Romance Novel*

It is a story about a relationship between a 15 year-old-boy + 14 yr old girl.

4. What do you think is good about this material?

Nothing - it has no educational value - it is a romance novel and even received an award for this.

5. What do you think might be the effects of reading or viewing this material?

The same effect pornography has on minors. If I need to be more specific I will be glad to comment further.

6. Are you aware of the critic's view of this material? If so, please be specific.

I have read many reviews on-line and I am not surprised that teenagers like it because it addresses their sexuality... does this make it appropriate?!

7. What action would you recommend the library media center take regarding this material?

☐ do not assign/lend it to my child

☒ withdraw it from all student use

8. What material do you recommend in its place? *Fictional Novels that are not about sexuality involving minors.*

Signature Allyson Werner Date 10-19-10

I have attached "awards" for this book - & some reviews.

FILE: IIAC-R
Critical

Reconsideration of Challenged Library Materials

The building principal and the library media specialist shall be notified of all complaints regarding the suitability of library media center materials. The complainant shall be notified of the selection guidelines specified in the district's Library Media Center Policy and Procedures Handbook. If the complaint cannot be satisfied informally, the complainant should complete the form "Request for Reconsideration of Materials." A meeting will be held with the complainant, the library media specialist, and an administrator.

If a resolution cannot be reached, the superintendent and the Board of Education shall be notified. A committee shall be established to review the material and the complaint. This committee shall be comprised of two (2) teachers nominated by the faculty, one (1) administrator, one (1) library media specialist, one (1) or more parents and one (1) or more students nominated by Student Council. The purpose of the committee shall be to review only one (1) challenged material and shall be limited to the specific objections listed on the "Request for Reconsideration of Materials." The committee shall be aware of the selection guidelines specified in the district's Library Media Center Policy and Procedures Handbook. The review committee shall complete the following procedures after receiving the challenged material:

1. Read, view or listen to the material in its entirety.
2. Check general acceptance of the material by reading reviews and consulting recommended award lists.
3. Determine the extent to which the material supports the curriculum.
4. Complete the "Checklist for School Library Media Center Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Instructional Material," judging material for its strength and value as a whole and not in part.
5. Make a recommendation to the Board of Education.

The Board of Education will decide whether the challenged material will be retained or withdrawn. The decision of the Board is final. The complainant shall be informed of the decision. The library media specialist will retain or withdraw challenged material as mandated by the decision of the Board of Education.

The challenged material shall remain available for normal circulation during the reconsideration process. The same material may not be challenged more than once.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS

Title _____

Author _____ Format _____

Request initiated by _____ Phone number(____) _____

Address _____

Complainant represents himself/herself? _____ Organization? _____ Other group? _____

1. Please state your objection to this material in as specific a manner as possible. Please be specific. Cite pages.
2. Did you read or view the material in its entirety? ____ Yes ____ No
If not, what parts did you read or view. Please be specific.
3. What do you think is the purpose, theme, or message of the material?
4. What do you think is good about this material?
5. What do you think might be the effects of reading or viewing this material?
6. Are you aware of the critic's view of this material? If so, please be specific.
7. What action would you recommend the library media center take regarding this material?
____ do not assign/lend it to my child
____ withdraw it from all student use
8. What material do you recommend in its place?

Signature _____ Date _____

**CHECKLIST FOR THE
VALLEY PARK SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

Title _____

Author _____

Purpose

1. What is the overall purpose, theme, or message of this material?

2. Is the purpose, theme, or message accomplished? ____ Yes ____ No

3. If the story is fantasy, does it have imaginative appeal for children or young adults?
____ Yes ____ No ____ Not applicable

4. Will the reading, viewing, or listening to material result in more compassionate understanding of human beings? ____ Yes ____ No

5. Does the work offer an opportunity to better understand and appreciate the aspirations, achievements, and problems of various minority groups? ____ Yes ____ No

6. Are any questionable elements of the story an integral part of a worthwhile theme or message? ____ Yes ____ No

Authenticity

1. Is the author/artist competent and qualified to produce the work? ____ Yes ____ No

2. What is the reputation and significance of the author/ artist and the publisher/ producer of this work?

3. Is the material up-to-date? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Not applicable

4. Are sources documented? ____ Yes ____ No ____ Not applicable

5. Are translations and retellings faithful to the original? ____ Yes ____ No
____ Not applicable

Appropriateness

1. Does the material promote the educational goals and objectives of the curriculum of the school district? ____ Yes ____ No

2. Is it appropriate to the level of instruction intended? ____ Yes ____ No

3. Are the illustrations appropriate to the subject and age levels? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Content

1. Is the content of this material well presented by providing adequate scope, range, depth, and continuity? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

2. Does this material present information not otherwise available? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Does this material give a new dimension or direction to the subject? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Does the work portray life realistically in the particular setting? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Does the work avoid an oversimplification of life, one which leaves the reader with the general feeling that life is sweet and rosy, or ugly and meaningless?
☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Where factual information is present, is it accurate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Is prejudicial appeal readily identifiable by the potential reader? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Are concepts presented appropriate to the ability and maturity of the potential readers?
☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Do characters speak in a language true to the period and section of the country in which they live?
☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Does the material offend in some special way the sensibilities of women or a minority group by the way it presents either the chief character or any of the minor characters?
☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Is there preoccupation with sex, violence, cruelty, brutality, and aberrant behavior that would make the material inappropriate for children?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Young adults? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Reviews

1. Source of Review: _____

_____ Favorably reviewed _____ Unfavorably reviewed (Attach review).

2. Source of Review: _____

_____ Favorably reviewed _____ Unfavorably reviewed (Attach review).